

# WORKSHOP: DEEP SEA MANAGEMENT.

The George Edinburgh, 15th and 16th May.



- Evolution of the management of deep sea species in North Atlantic and achievements in historical and global context,

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former Secretary of NEAFC

# Professional background

- Hailing from the Faroe Islands
- Degree in Marine Ecology, Univ. of Copenhagen
- Trained in fisheries biology, population dynamics, stock assessment and fisheries management postgraduate.
- Worked as scientist 1969 – 1985, Chair of the ICES ACFM 1980-1982 and as ICES Fisheries Officer 1982-1985.
- Worked as a fisheries manager as Director of fisheries in the Faroe Islands, 1986-1996.
- Secretary of NEAFC from 2001-2011
- Participated very actively in international processes in FAO, UN and Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network in the last decade

# Topics covered

The presentation will consist of the following parts.

- International calls for protection of the deep seas and their living resources; UN General Assembly, FAO and CBD processes;
- The definition and description of deep sea fisheries and the particular challenges of managing deep sea species;
- The evolution of deep sea fisheries in the North East Atlantic;
- The evolution of scientific advice and management of the deep sea fisheries in the North East Atlantic;
- The situation 2013. What has been achieved?

# Deep Sea Fisheries have become the “prügelknabe” of NGOs

- Deep Sea Fisheries have been discussed extensively in UN and FAO in recent years
- A well-orchestrated and well-funded, public campaign

## Deep Sea Conservation Coalition



- has lobbied strongly at UN ICP meetings and in the public domain
- There are reputable scientists in the Coalition, but they have turned campaigners, they express the opinion of some scientists, rather than scientific opinion.

# Deep Sea Fisheries have become the “prügelknabe” of NGOs

- When looking at the the problems in worldwide fisheries it seem rather disproportionate that so much focus has been on deep sea fisheries
- The real problems in managing fisheries and their impact on the environment are not in the deep sea, but in inland and coastal fisheries. These fisheries are immensely important, but lack of funds means that many of theses fisheris have not been properly managed
- But still in the UN there has been much focus on the limited activity of deep sea fishing, rather than the real problems in global fisheries

# To much focus on the impact of fisheries

- In 2004 one lecture on high seas bottom fisheries was presented to the UN ICP panel by a representative of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, which *inter alia* presented very misleading data on high seas bottom trawling worldwide and in the North Atlantic
- Many presentation at the UN ICP meetings have focused on deep sea bottom fisheries, but have failed to take into account the many other human activities impacting on the deep sea marine environment.

# The 2009 FAO review

- Well managed deep sea fisheries are a activity that does not have to be a threat to biodiversity in the high seas
- The Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas (Bensch et al., 2009) provided a regional overview of historical and current fisheries in the deep sea high seas. The review found that in 2006 about 285 vessels were involved in high seas demersal fisheries, with an estimated total catch of about 250 000 tonnes in 2006, based on a catch of about 60 species.
- Some of these fisheries are regulated through existing RFMOs, other are taken place in areas with no RFMO.
- Anyway, managing 285 vessels and a catch of 250,000 tonnes is really not a big problem.

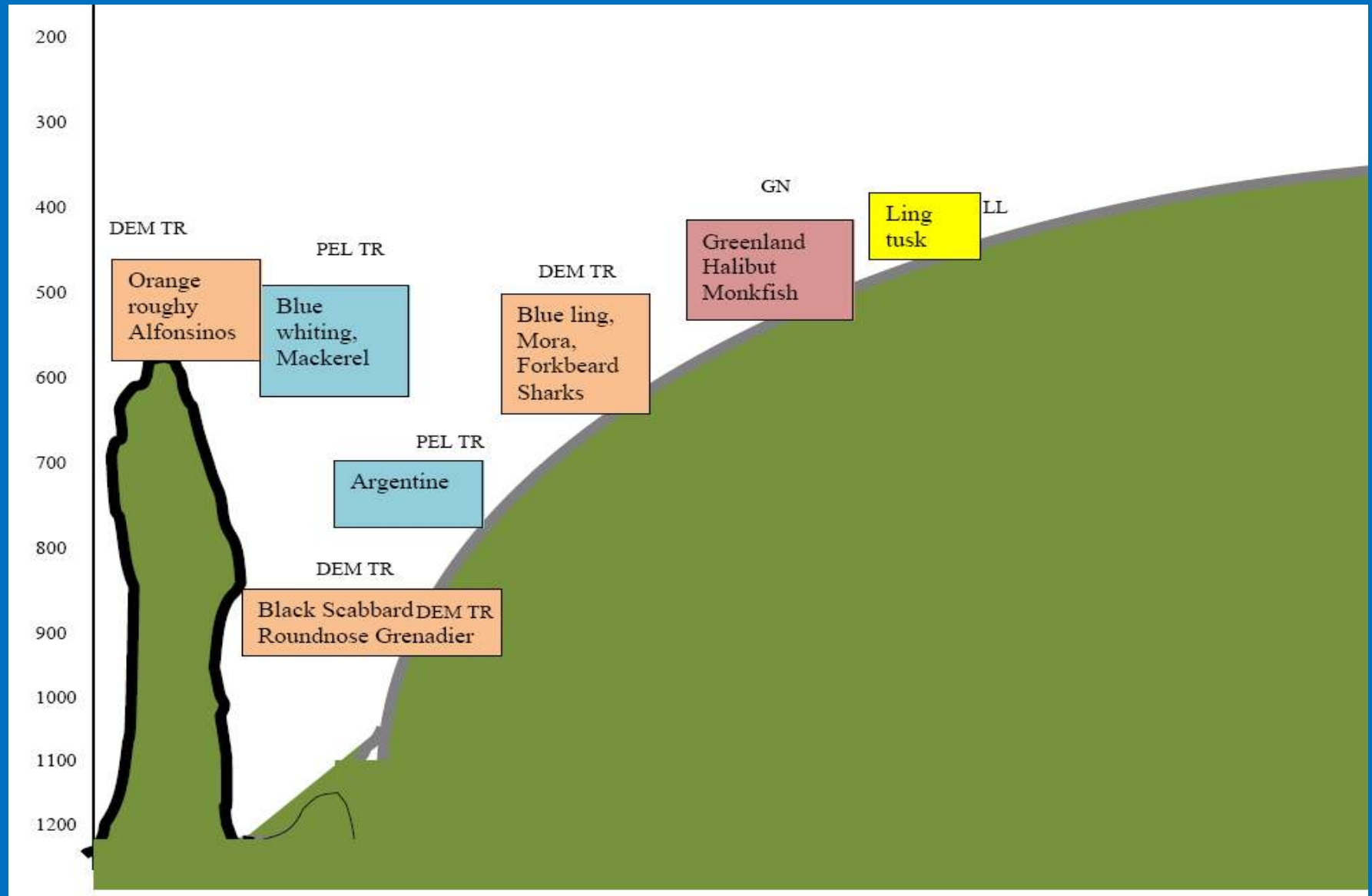


# Following up on UNGA Resolutions

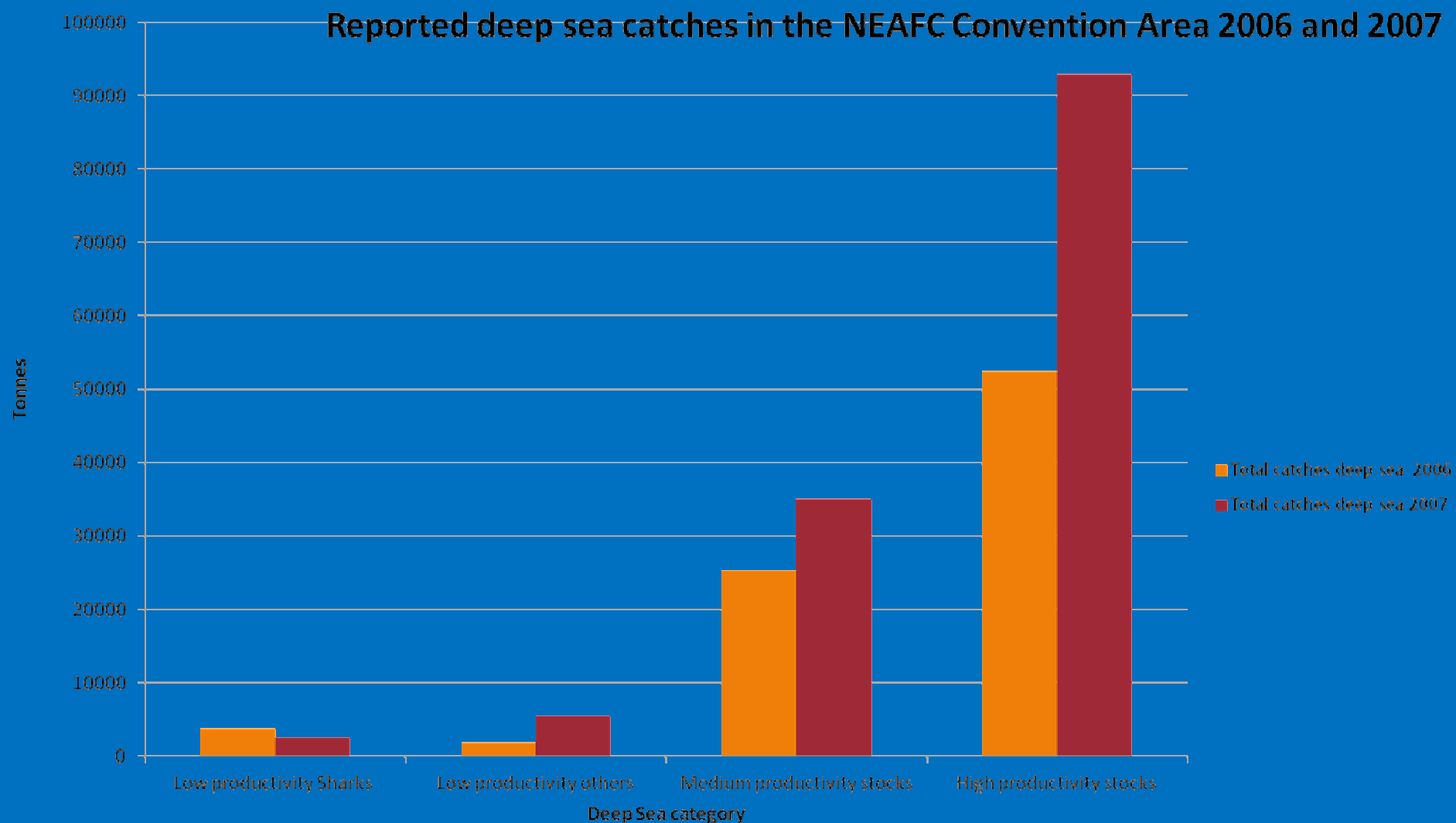
- There was a UN workshop in September 2011 attempting to evaluate i.e.. if RFMOs had followed properly on the UNGA resolutions on deep sea fisheries.
- I did not participate in that workshop, but I have been told by participants that the North Atlantic RFMOs made their case satisfactorily.
- One participant said that the NGOs had missed as significant chance to get their campaign more balanced.
- I had, therefore, expected, that the heavy criticism from the NGOs had diminished and there was more of an acceptance that things are in hand and deep sea fisheries are not a real problem anymore. We know also that in areas where there are no RFMOs there is also progress and industry driven initiatives



# Defining deep sea Fisheries slopes and seamounts in the NE Atlantic Area

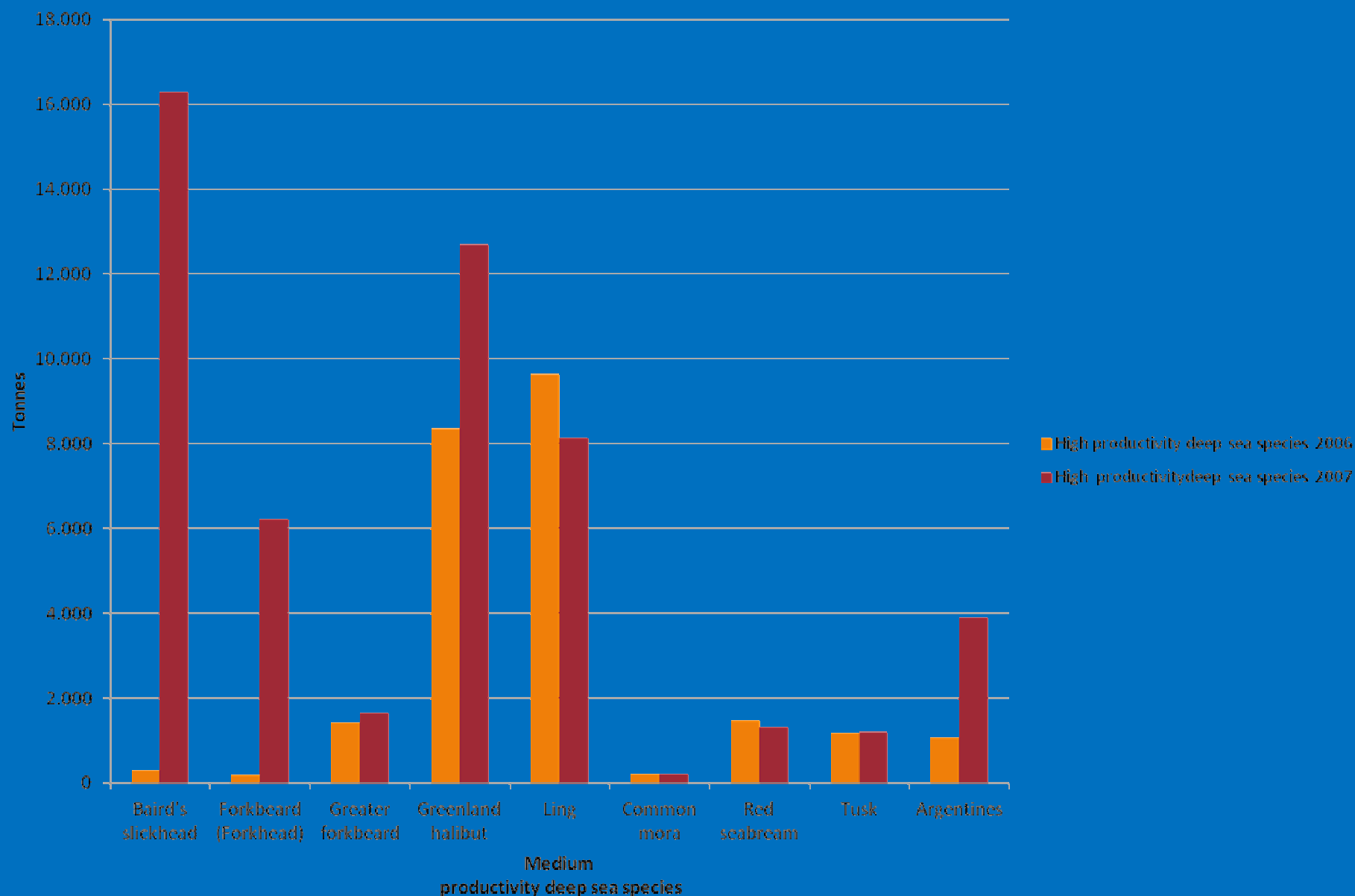


# NE Atlantic 2007 NEAFC statistics



# NE Atlantic 2007 NEAFC statistics

Reported catches High Productivity deep sea species 2006 2007



# Scientific advice on the deep sea

- ICES is the provider of science and scientific advice to NEAFC.
- ICES has realised that it has not been possible to deliver advice based on analytical assessments as done for many of the shallow water stocks. They, therefore, at the outset suggested that the deep sea fisheries be regulated by effort quotas.
- ICES has also had difficulties to advise on the effect of a geographical distribution of closed areas.
- Managers have, thus, not had so much to go on.

# 2005 data on deep-sea fisheries in the NE Atlantic

Party	Convention on Method	Reference period for effort limit	Limit of authorisation	Measures and reduction in effort
The EU Estonia Poland	Limit on fleet capacity and effort, kilowatt days, in Convention Area. TACs for main commercial species.	1998-2000; vessels having caught over 10t/year for old member states. 2000-2002 for new member states	Any vessel with more than 100Kg of deep-sea species on board	10 % reduction compared with 2003 in kilowatt days for vessels licensed to deep-sea fishing, no increase in the number of vessels and aggregate power and volume compared to 1998-2000. 2000-2002 for new member states
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands)	Limit on fleet size	1995-2000 under consideration	The number of vessels are permitted to fish for deep-sea species frozen at 1995 level.	Based on logbook data effort has been reduced 30 %. The reference period will stretch back to the mid 1990s. A level of 300 fishing days for 2005 is indicated.
Denmark (in respect of Greenland)	Not presently fishing in the NRA	No track record	N/A	The lack of track record should not exclude vessels from participating in this fisheries in the future

## 2005 data on deep sea fisheries in the NE Atlantic

Contracting Party	Implementation Method	Reference period for effort limit	Definition of authorisation	Measure of reduction in effort
Iceland	TACs for main commercial species	1999-2000 under consideration	National system of authorisation	As of April no application for licence for the year 2005 has been received
Norway	Days-at-sea for a limited fleet in the NRA	1998-2002; vessels having caught over 5t/year (RP).	A licence system allowing vessels to catch any quantity of deep-sea species listed in Annex 1B of the Scheme	Fishing days for 17 Norwegian long line vessels allowed to fish for deep-sea species had been reduced by 30 % to 547 fishing days in 2005
Russian Federation	Days-at-sea for a limited fleet in the NRA	1970-2003	A licence system allowing vessels to catch any quantity of deep-sea species listed in Annex 1B of the Scheme	30 % reduction in directed effort of the highest level in the reference period leading to 641 fishing day for roundnose grenadier, 67 for alfonosinos and 175 for blue ling in 2005

# UN and FAO processes

- Since 2003 The UN General Assembly has passed two annual resolutions on Ocean and Fisheries matters:
- A/RES **Oceans and the law of the sea.**
- A/RES **Sustainable fisheries**, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling
- Especially UN General Assembly resolution 61/105 has attracted attention



# Global UN and FAO processes

- UNGA 61/105 83. UN.... *Calls upon* Regional Fisheries Management Organisations or arrangements with the competence to regulate bottom fisheries to adopt and implement measures, in accordance with the precautionary approach, ecosystem approaches and international law, for their respective regulatory areas as a matter of priority, but not later than **31 December 2008**.

FAO Technical Consultations on International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas  
4-8 February and 25-29 August 2008 in Rome

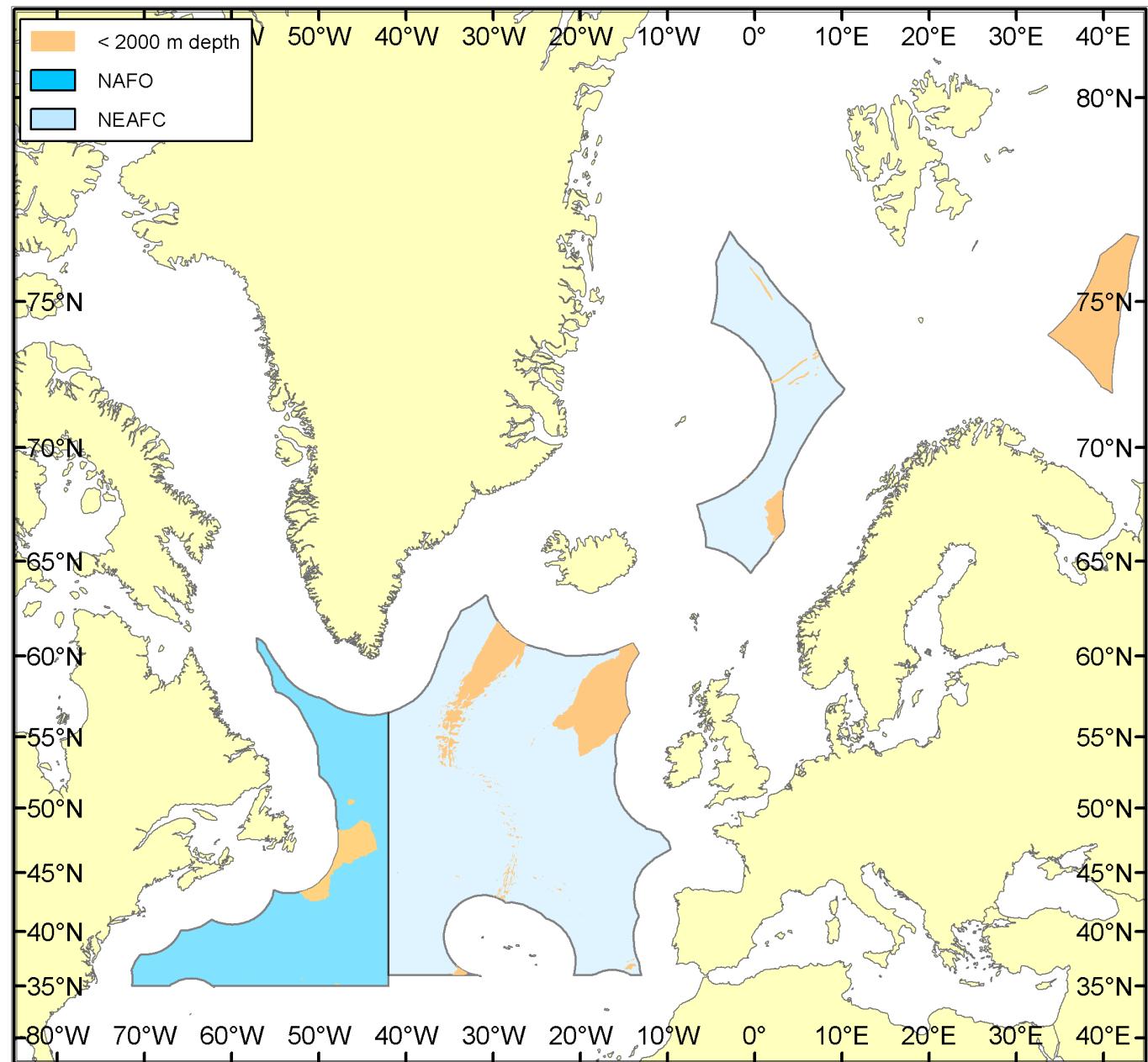
- NE-Atlantic Coastal States were very active at UN meetings and in Consultations on International Guidelines for the Management of Deep sea Fisheries in the High Seas

# International processes protecting vulnerable deep sea species and habitats - criteria FAO and CBD

CBD EBSMAs	FAO VME
Uniqueness or rarity	Uniqueness / rarity
Special importance for life history stages of species	Functional significance of habitat
Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats	Fragility
Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity or slow recovery	Life history attributes of species
Naturalness	
Biological productivity	Structural Complexity
Biological diversity	

# Bergstad & Hoines Symposium presentation

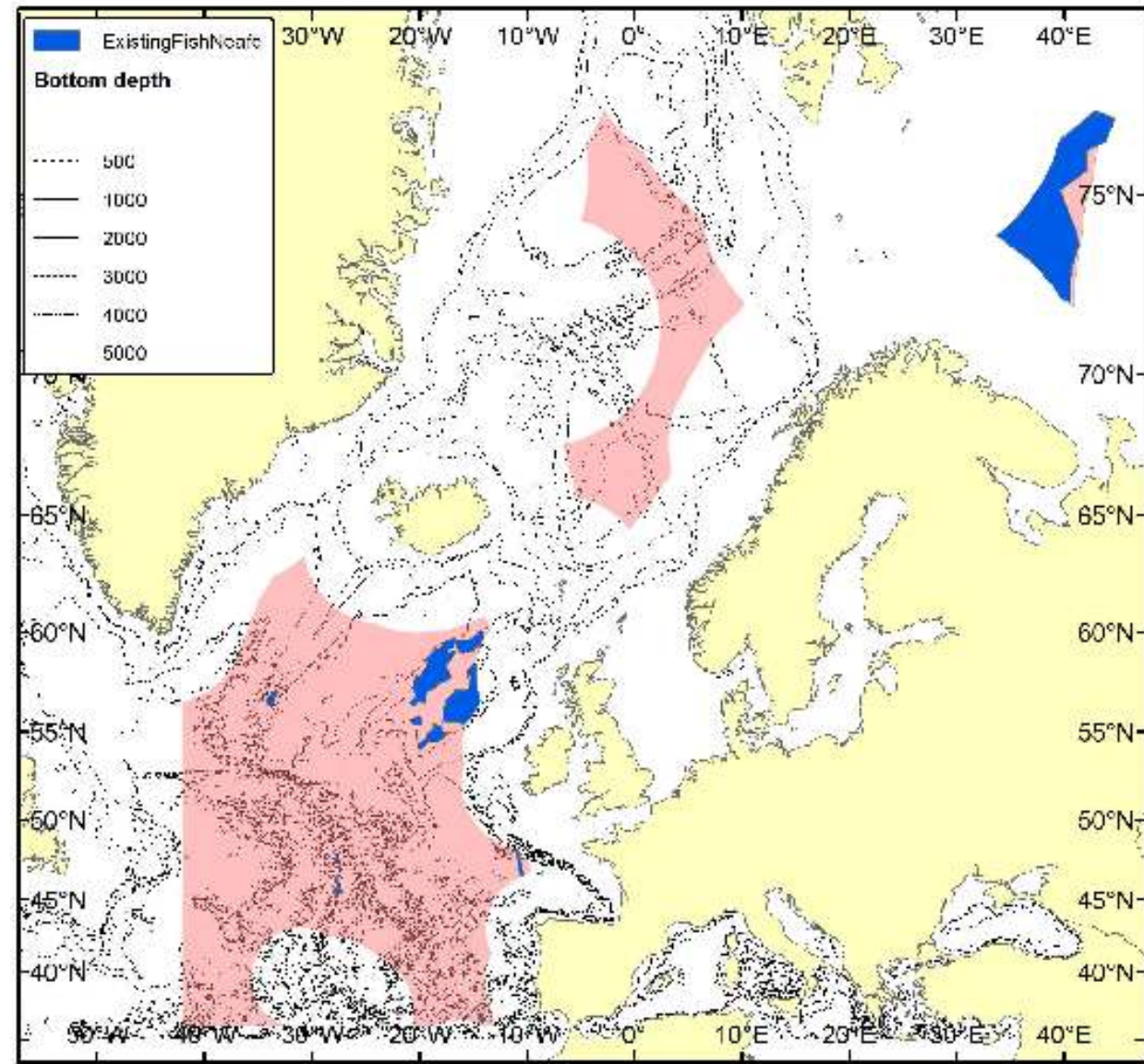
Areas above  
2000 m depth



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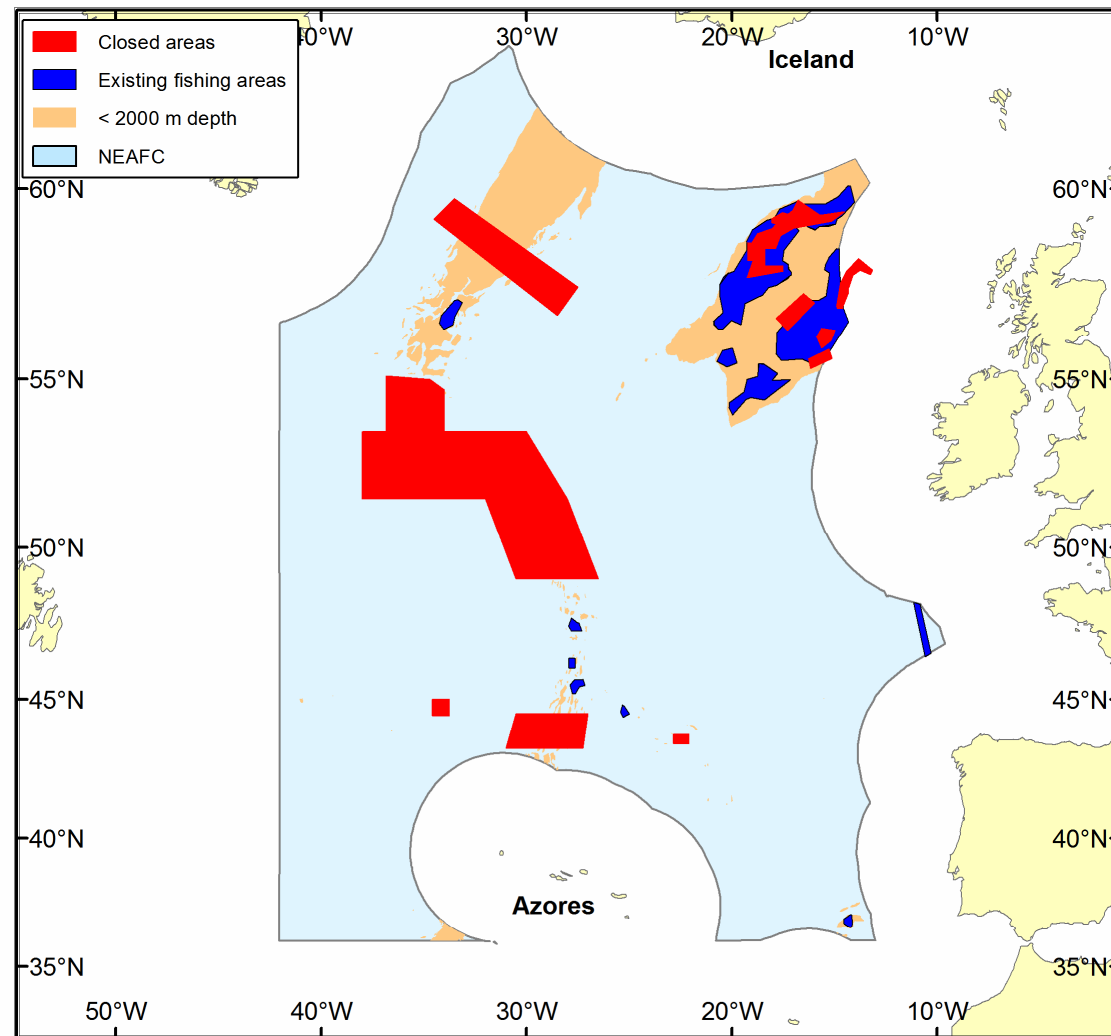
# Bergstad & Hoines Symposium presentation

## Existing and new fishing areas in NEAFC Regulatory area



# Bergstad & Hoines Symposium presentation

Closed areas  
and existing  
fishing areas  
in the part of  
the NEAFC  
Regulatory  
Area between  
Iceland and  
Azores  
Mid-Atlantic  
Ridge and  
Hatton Bank



# Size of Area and Closures

Size of RA	NEAFC	Existing Area	Fishing	New Area	Fishing	Total	Closure
Area	Sq. km	Sq. km	%	Sq. km	%	Sq. km	%
S.of Iceland	4,900,000	42,500	0.9	4,502,200	91.9	355,300	7.3
Norwegian Sea	326,000			326,000			
Barents Sea	71,000	71,000					
Arctic ocean	275,000			275,000			
	Sq. km	%					
Fishable area S.Iceland	655,000						
All Closures	355,300	54,0					

# We must look at the total impact of all human activities not only fisheries

- A network of agreements of cooperation and MoUs between existing organisations with a mandate to regulate human activities in the ocean will in the short and medium term offer the best opportunity to achieve the correct balance between optimum utilisation and conservation in the North East Atlantic.
- This seems to be the way forward seen by the important organisations regulating human activities in the deep sea, IMO, (shipping), ISA, (deep sea mining) OSPAR (pollution, dumping, hydrocarbon extraction etc.) and NEAFC deep sea fisheries.



# The situation 2013. What has been achieved?

- As I have described in the international waters in the NE Atlantic (and as a matter of fact also on the Western side) Deep water fisheries are managed according to all principles in international law and international agreements. The fisheries are controlled by effort limitation and area management.
- I have not dealt with deep sea fisheries inside EEZs.
- I see no reason to contemplate further measures like ban on certain gears. The industry in these years invests a lot in more selective and lighter gear.
- If the real aim is to protect the environment and biodiversity the focus should be on the total impact of human activities in the sea

The  
end

